

K1542 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 22/02/13

Conservation Finished: 23/01/13

Conservator: Natalie Harding

Time Taken: 8hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 15.5mm (W) 11mm (D) 6mm

Weight before: 1.57grams

Weight after: 1.37grams

Weight with K1347 and K298: 7.55g

X-ray: BM, L101, L102, L126

Catalogue number: 182

Digital photography:

Taken with a Nikon Coolpix 4500 digital camera, under daylight or bulbs and Meiji Techno RZ Stereo microscope with an Infinity 1 camera (with analyses capture software) and fibre optic lights, 7-75x magnification. Taken before, during and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes:

K1542. Decorated Frag.

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification. Five-sided decorated fragment, possibly silver. Four edges are torn. Decoration is recessed with linear styling. Two distinct border edges, perpendicular to the horizontal lines of the decoration. There appears to be gold gilding in the lower recesses of the decoration. Large soil clump on reverse. Black patina, possibly silver tarnish covers most of the surface.

Associated Objects: Joins with K298 and K1347.

K181, K743, K1306, K755, 1152.

Pre-Conservation Condition: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification

Seems to be structurally stable, however the applied gilding is coming loose in four areas on the front. There is a bend or fold in the piece, but unsure as to whether this is damage or part of the original shape of the object. Dark even black coloured patina covers the surface, possibly silver tarnish. Green copper alloy corrosion product (possibly), on the front surface. This looks quite stable and well attached to the object. What may be a silver corrosion product is present on all surfaces. This appears as a thicker granular coating, slightly pink/grey in colour and obscures the detail of the decoration. Light to medium soil covering, large soil clump on reverse.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study / Analysis

Aim: Partial cleaning

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, thorn in pin vice/holder, IMS on metals, 50:50 water/IMS on metals, cotton wool swabs, cocktail stick, Paraloid B72.

The granular soil on the front and back was mechanically removed or reduced where possible using a fine thorn tip secured in a pin vice and a small pure bristle brush. IMS or water was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small swab of IMS.

Copper alloy corrosion products were left in situ; corrosion was not active and can be further cleaned or stabilised at a later date. Some areas of what is thought to be silver corrosion product was removed to enable viewing and analysis of the decoration and gilding beneath.

The paper K number was adhered to the back with HMG brand Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) from the tube, applied with a cocktail stick.

A storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was made for housing the object. A strip of Tyvek (spun bound polyethylene fibres) was used as a cushion for the object and to help lift it out of the foam.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

A thin black fragment was found in the soil clump on the reverse of the piece. This is thought to be a piece of tarnished silver. This was sampled and placed in a glass vial.

The gilding on the front was found to be relatively stable, without needing consolidation. However care should be taken when handling to ensure that the gilding does not become snagged on anything. Gilding is evident in the lower recesses of the linear decoration, where the higher points have been worn off.

Key Features:

- Gold gilding in recesses.
- Two visible border edges.
- Linear decoration.

Analysis Undertaken: n/a

Samples:

1. Soil
2. Fragment, possibly silver.

References: n/a